

Alabama Cattlemen's Association

P.O. Box 2499 ■ Montgomery, AL 36102-2499 ■ 334/265-1867 ■ FAX: 334/834-5326
www.bamabeef.org

President

Perry Debter
Horton

President-Elect

Eric Smith
Reform

Vice-President

Max Bozeman
Elba

Treasurer

Ned Ellis
Fort Deposit

Executive Vice President

Dr. Billy Powell
Montgomery

Regional Vice Presidents

Term Ending 2006

Johnny Adcock, Woodland
Donna Jo Curtis, Athens
Mike Griffin, Troy
Jimmy Holliman, Marion Jct.

Term Ending 2007

Orland Britnell, Russellville
Calvin Grimes, Centre
Joe Jeffcoat, Tallahassee
Terry Slaten, Cullman

Term Ending 2008

Mike Dee, Aliceville
Bobby Jackson, Opp
James Potts, Wilton
Charles Reeves, Jackson

Past Presidents*

J.E. Horton, Jr., Madison
John Trotman, Montgomery
Cecil Lane, Benton
Henry B. Gray, III, Eufaula
K. Stanley Drake, Opelika
Ray Jones, Huntsville
Harold Pate, Lowndesboro
Milton Wendland, Autaugaville
Julio Corte, Jr., Daphne
Joe R. Crawford, Baileytown
Dr. Billy Powell, Montgomery
Dr. George S. Killan, Ft. Payne
Dr. George Smith, Lineville
Steve Tondera, Huntsville
Ronnie Holladay, Tyler
A.W. (Buck) Compton, Nanafalia
Billy Maples, Elkmont
Bill Johnson, Montgomery
Glynn Debter, Horton
Ned Ellis, Ft. Deposit
Dr. Phil Hardee, Beatrice
Tim Coe, Wedowee
LD Fitzpatrick, Montgomery
Bob Helms, Enterprise
Gregg Blythe, Decatur
Wendell Gibbs, Kanburne
Wayne Thames, Burnt Corn
Anne Payne, Ramer
Jeff Donaldson, Jasper
Dr. J. Lee Alley, Montgomery
Bill Pope, Grand Bay

*Living

2007 Farm Bill Forum

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns
Tuskegee University

August 25, 2005

Comments from Max Bozeman, Elba, AL
Vice President, Alabama Cattlemen's Association
PO Box 2499
Montgomery, AL 36102-2499

Mr. Secretary, I am Max Bozeman, a cow-calf producer from Elba, AL located in the Wiregrass region of the state. I currently serve as Vice President of the Alabama Cattlemen's Association, one of the largest state cattlemen's organizations in the country.

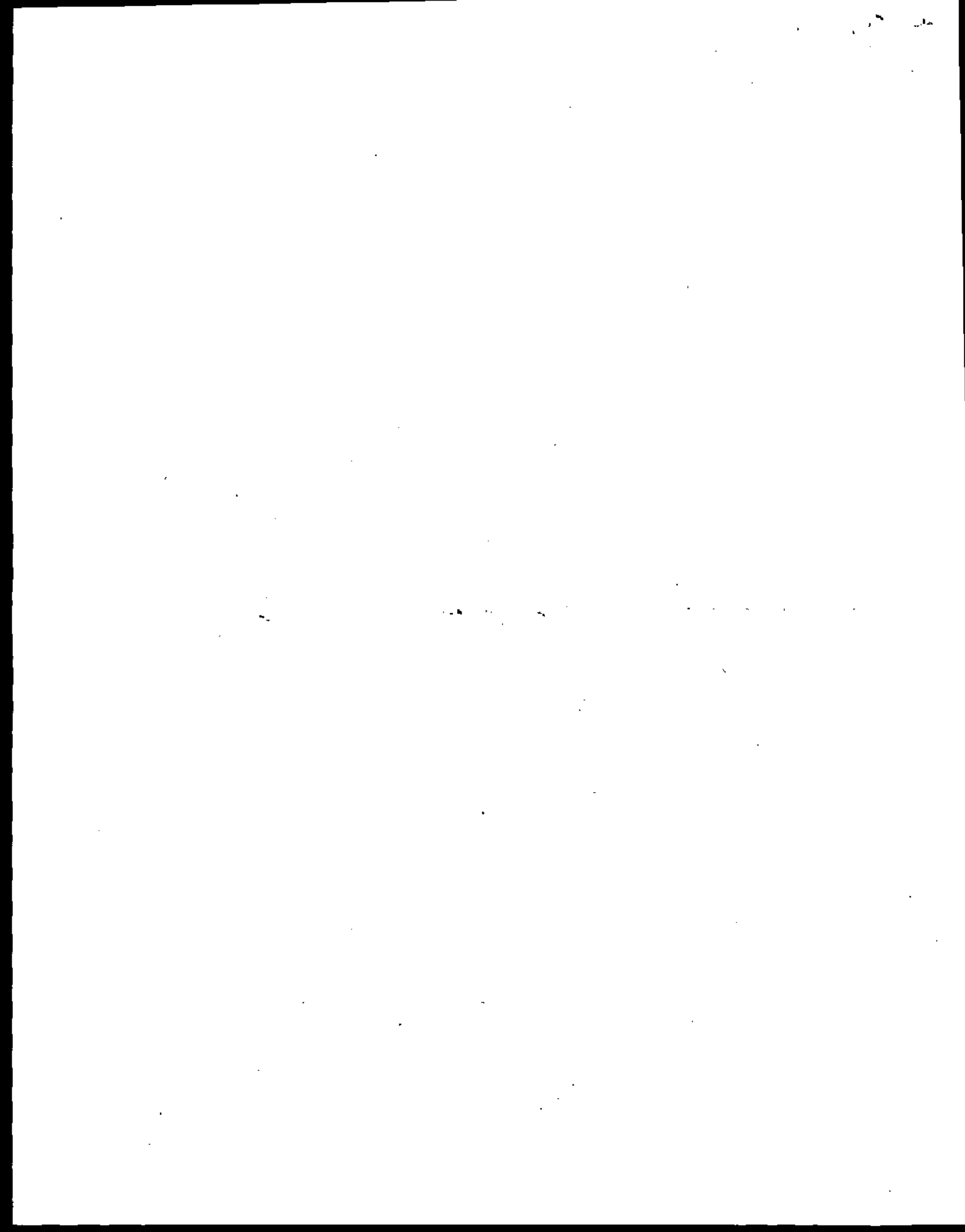
It is an honor for me to be here at historic Tuskegee University and be given the opportunity to speak at this Farm Bill Forum.

First, thank you Secretary Johanns for your diligent efforts and commitment to cattle producers on the international trade front and your work towards reopening of foreign borders to U.S. beef products. We also appreciate your handling of the BSE situation which helped maintain consumer confidence in our beef supply and kept our calf prices high.

Cattle are one of Alabama's largest farm commodities with over 25,000 beef cattle farms in the state. We sell over \$400 million dollars worth of cattle and calves annually.

Mr. Secretary I know first hand the impact of the farm bill as I use to grow peanuts and have now shifted totally to cattle. My comments today concern questions #2 and #4 from the material we received on the 2007 Farm Bill Forum.

"The Qualified State Beef Council of Alabama"



Those of us in production agriculture agree that future farm policy will most certainly require the co-existence of sustainable farming operations alongside delicate natural ecosystems. We also are aware that government working within the farm bill will most likely direct landowners to enact management practices to preserve and protect natural resources.

From my standpoint as a landowner and cattleman, I can see the benefit of a monetary incentive program that would make it more feasible for farmers to put such management practices into place on their own operations.

After all, cattlemen and other farmers are the nation's original land stewards and keeping our land productive for future generations remains a top priority. Today, 97% of cattlemen are family farmers and ranchers and 42% of those operations have been in the same family for more than 50 years.

I would like to see every effort made by USDA in the coming farm bill to include such incentives so as to make private landowners the driving force behind conservation efforts on private lands. It will be through the cooperation of USDA programs and the encouraged efforts of private landowners that farm policy can best achieve conservation and environmental goals.

My livelihood is dependent on being able to protect beef at a competitive price for a global marketplace. We need your help in keeping the playing field level in global trade and we need more dollars for our land grant universities to do agricultural research. I depend on our land grants to show me what improvements I can make in my cattle operation to keep abreast of the rapidly changing beef industry. Without their help, we will all be out of business.

We have a rapidly growing problem with non-native invasive plants such as Cogongrass, tropical soda apple, tallow trees, privet hedge, kudzu and other like species. The costs of spraying to keep these plants under control on large acreages are nearly prohibitive. More dollars are needed in cost-share programs for invasive plant eradication. This is the only way private land owner can play a major role in preventing these invasive plants from taking more of our farmland and forests out of production.

[The body of the page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the document. The text is too light to transcribe accurately.]

Although the price I received for my feeder calves this year was the highest ever, my input costs in diesel fuel, fertilizer and equipment were even higher. The 2007 farm bill must contain those items that will allow me to be able to produce more and more while operating on less and less. An example of an existing farm bill program that needs some change is the CRP which has taken a lot of land out of production in the name of conservation. As the farm bill shifts to conservation and environmental programs, cattle producers will play a more important role implementing management practices to help preserve and protect natural resources. If USDA helps me stay in the cattle business, I will plant the grass to conserve our soil and water as well as provide habitats for wildlife.

Thank you, Mr. Secretary for coming to Alabama and for listening to my comments.

Max Bozeman, Vice President
Alabama Cattlemen's Association
PO Box 2499
Montgomery, AL 36102-2499

